

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 66-68, 70, 71, 73-75, 77, 78, and 80-107 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add Claims 108-123 as follows:

J¹ ~~--108. An outline forming apparatus, comprising:~~
~~a storage medium for storing coordinate data~~
~~indicating a position of an outline point of a pattern, first~~
~~vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when a~~
~~weight value defining a width of a pattern is between a first~~
~~weight value and a second weight value, and second vector~~
~~data indicating a change of the coordinate data when the~~
~~weight value is between the second weight value and a third~~
~~weight value;~~
~~an inputter, arranged for inputting a weight~~
~~value;~~
~~a selector, arranged for selecting either the~~
~~first vector data or the second vector data, based on the~~
~~weight value input by said inputter; and~~
~~an outline point determiner, arranged for~~
~~determining an outline point by changing the coordinate data~~

in accordance with either the first vector data or the second vector data selected by said selector.

109. The apparatus according to claim 108, wherein said storage medium stores the first vector data and the second vector data for each coordinate data.

110. The apparatus according to claim 108, wherein said storage medium stores definition information which defines the second weight value.

111. The apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the first and second vector data indicate x-coordinate and y-coordinate changes separately, and the definition information indicates second weight values for x- and y-coordinates separately.

112. The apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the definition information indicates the second weight values for each coordinate data.

113. The apparatus according to claim 108, further comprising a pattern generator for generating a pattern based on outline points whose coordinate data have been determined by said outline point determiner.

114. The apparatus according to claim 113, further comprising a printer for printing the pattern generated by said pattern generator.

115. An outline forming method which utilizes a storage medium storing coordinate data indicating a position of an outline point of a pattern, first vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when a weight value defining a width of a pattern changes between a first weight value and a second weight value, and second vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when the weight value changes between the second weight value and a third weight value, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a weight value;

selecting either the first vector data or the second vector data, based on the weight value input in the inputting step; and

determining an outline point by changing the coordinate data in accordance with either the first vector data or the second vector data selected in the selecting step.

116. The method according to claim 115, wherein said storage medium stores the first vector data and the second vector data for each coordinate data.

117. The method according to claim 115, wherein said storage medium stores definition information which defines the second weight value.

118. The method according to claim 117, wherein the first and second vector data indicate x-coordinate and y-coordinate changes separately, and the definition information indicates second weight values for x- and y-coordinates separately.

119. The method according to claim 117, wherein the definition information indicates the second weight value for each coordinate data.

120. The method according to claim 115, further comprising a generation step of generating a pattern based on outline points whose coordinate data have been determined in the determining step.

121. The method according to claim 120, further comprising a printing step of printing the pattern generated in the generating step

122. A computer readable medium storing computer program code for controlling an apparatus which has a storage

medium storing coordinate data indicating a position of an outline point of a pattern, first vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when a weight value defining a width of a pattern changes between a first weight value and a second weight value, and second vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when the weight value changes between the second weight value and a third weight value, said program code comprising:

56 input process procedure code for inputting a weight value;

 selecting process procedure code for selecting either the first vector data or the second vector data, based on the weight value input by the input process procedure code; and

 determining process procedure code for determining an outline point by changing the coordinate data in accordance with either the first vector data or the second vector data selected by the selecting process procedure code.

123. A program product having program code for controlling an apparatus which has a storage medium storing coordinate data indicating a position of an outline point of a pattern, first vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when a weight value defining a width of a pattern changes between a first weight value and a second

weight value, and second vector data indicating a change of the coordinate data when the weight value changes between the second weight value and a third weight value, said program code comprising:

input process procedure code for inputting a weight value;

selecting process procedure code for selecting either the first vector data or the second vector data, based on the weight value input by the input process procedure code; and

determining process procedure code for determining an outline point by changing the coordinate data in accordance with either the first vector data or the second vector data selected by the selecting process procedure code.--

REMARKS

Claims 66-68, 70, 71, 73-75, 77, 78, and 80-107¹ have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, and have been replaced with added Claims 108-123, which are now pending in this application. Claims 108, 115, 122, and 123 are independent.

¹/ It is noted that the second claim added in the Preliminary Amendment filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on January 19, 2000 was incorrectly numbered "105" rather than "107". The present Amendment refers to that misnumbered claim as Claim 107.